

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

PORTABLE RADIO COMMUNICATION APPARATUS PROVIDED
WITH A PART OF HOUSING OPERATING AS AN ANTENNA

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a portable radio communication
apparatus including a housing, and in particular, relates to a portable
radio communication apparatus provided with a part of housing
10 operating as an antenna.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

Recently, portable radio communication apparatuses such as
cellular phones have been increasingly made smaller in size and thinner.

In addition, the portable radio communication apparatuses have been
15 not only used as conventional cellular phones but also transformed to
data terminal apparatuses for transmitting and receiving E-mails and for
viewing web pages through WWW (World Wide Web). Due to this, liquid
crystal displays have been made larger in size. In these circumstances,
folding cellular phone terminals, which are considered to be suited to
20 make the portable radio communication apparatuses smaller in size and
make the liquid crystal displays larger in size, have been spread as
disclosed in the following publications:

- (a) Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 2001-156898;
- (b) Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 2002-084355;
- 25 (c) Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 2002-335180;
- (d) Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 2002-299931;

and

(e) Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 2002-516503.

However, an antenna for use in the conventional portable radio communication apparatus requires an antenna-dedicated electrically conductive part, and then, requires a space occupied by the conductive part. Due to this, the portable radio communication apparatus cannot be made thinner. Besides, if the antenna is constituted by using a printed wiring board or the like, the material cost is required for the elements, thereby disadvantageously increasing the manufacturing cost thereof.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a portable radio communication apparatus, which can solve the above-mentioned disadvantages, which does not require any dedicated conductive part as an antenna, which can reduce the number of parts and manufacturing cost while maintaining good antenna characteristics, and which can be made thinner and lighter in weight.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a portable radio communication apparatus which can increase the strength against an impact such as that upon the user's dropping the same apparatus.

According to the aspect of the present invention, there is provided a portable radio communication apparatus including a housing. At least one part of the housing is formed as a housing electrical conductor portion by an electrically conductive material, and the housing electrical conductor portion is connected with a radio communication circuit of the portable radio communication apparatus so as to operate as at least one part of an antenna of the radio communication circuit.

In the above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus, the antenna is preferably an unbalanced type antenna.

In the above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus, the portable radio communication apparatus is preferably a straight type
5 portable radio communication apparatus. Otherwise, the portable radio communication apparatus is preferably a slide type portable radio communication apparatus in which an upper housing and a lower housing are slidable through a sliding mechanism, and at least one part of at least one of the upper housing and the lower housing is formed as a
10 housing electrical conductor portion by an electrically conductive material. Alternatively, the portable radio communication apparatus is preferably a folding portable radio communication apparatus in which an upper housing and a lower housing are foldable through a hinge portion, and at least one part of at least one of the upper housing and
15 the lower housing is formed as a housing electrical conductor portion by an electrically conductive material.

In the above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus, the housing electrical conductor portion is preferably made by forming an electrical conductor layer on a dielectric housing which is at least one
20 part of the housing. Further, the electrical conductor layer is preferably made by forming an electrical conductor pattern on the dielectric housing.

In the above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus, the electrical conductor layer preferably includes electrical conductor
25 patterns different from each other on both surfaces of the dielectric housing, respectively, so that the antenna operates in a plurality of frequency bands.

In the above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus,
the electrical conductor layer preferably includes a plurality of electrical
conductor portions having electric lengths different from each other,
respectively, so that the antenna operates in a plurality of frequency
5 bands.

The above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus
preferably further includes one of a slot and a slit which are formed in
the electrical conductor layer.

In the above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus,
10 the upper housing preferably includes an upper first housing portion
and an upper second housing portion, and at least one of the upper first
housing portion and the upper second housing portion is formed as a
housing electrical conductor portion by an electrically conductive
material so that the housing electrical conductor portion operates as at
15 least one part of the antenna of the portable radio communication
apparatus.

In the above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus,
the lower housing preferably includes a lower first housing portion and a
lower second housing portion, and at least one of the lower first housing
20 portion and the lower second housing portion is formed as a housing
electrical conductor portion by an electrically conductive material so that
the housing electrical conductor portion operates as at least one part of
the antenna of the portable radio communication apparatus.

In the above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus,
25 at least one part of the hinge portion preferably is formed as a hinge
electrical conductor portion by an electrically conductive material, and
the hinge electrical conductor portion is connected with the radio

communication circuit of the portable radio communication apparatus so as to operate as at least one part of the antenna of the radio communication circuit.

5 In the above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus, at least one part of the hinge portion is preferably formed as a hinge electrical conductor portion by an electrically conductive material so that the hinge electrical conductor portion operates as a parasitic element of the antenna of the radio communication circuit.

10 In the above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus, the hinge portion is preferably made to be rotatable in at least biaxial directions.

The above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus preferably further includes an electrically insulating layer formed on the hinge portion.

15 The above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus preferably further includes a plurality of reactance elements having a plurality of reactance values different from each other, respectively, and a switching device for selectively switching over the plurality of reactance elements so as to connect selected one of the reactance elements with
20 the housing electrical conductor portion.

The above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus preferably includes a plurality of reactance elements having a plurality of reactance values different from each other, respectively, and a switching device for selectively switching over the plurality of reactance elements
25 so as to connect selected one of the reactance elements with the housing electrical conductor portion through the hinge electrical conductor portion.

In the above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus,
the switching device preferably selectively switches over the plurality of
reactance elements in accordance with whether the portable radio
communication apparatus is in either one of an open state and a closed
5 state thereof.

In the above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus,
the switching device preferably selectively switches over the plurality of
reactance elements in accordance with a plurality of operating frequency
bands of the portable radio communication apparatus.

10 In the above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus,
the switching device preferably selectively switches over the plurality of
reactance elements in accordance with either one of transmission and
receiving of the portable radio communication apparatus.

In the above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus,
15 the housing electrical conductor portion is preferably made of one of a
dielectric material and a magnetic material, and the housing electrical
conductor portion is connected with the radio communication circuit
through an electrical insulator having a predetermined capacitance so
that a radio signal from the radio communication circuit is fed through
20 the capacitance of the electrical insulator to the housing electrical
conductor portion.

The above-mentioned portable radio communication apparatus
preferably further includes a thin-film-shaped electrically insulating
sheet formed on the upper housing having the housing electrical
25 conductor portion, and the thin-film-shaped electrically insulating sheet
is made of one of a dielectric material and a magnetic material.

Accordingly, according to the portable radio communication

apparatus of the present invention, at least one part of the housing is constituted to serve as the antenna element. Therefore, it is advantageously possible to increase the strength of the portable radio communication apparatus against the impact such as that upon the user's dropping the same apparatus. In addition, since it is unnecessary to secure the space occupied by the antenna element, the number of parts can be decreased, and the portable radio communication apparatus can be made thinner and lighter in weight as compared with the conventional portable radio communication apparatus.

Further, by allowing the hinge portion made of the electrically conductive material to function as a part of the antenna apparatus, the antenna apparatus can be made larger in size and the antenna gain thereof can be further improved. Additionally, by bonding the thin-film-shaped electrically insulating sheet made of the dielectric material or the magnetic material onto the surface of the upper first housing portion, the distance between the human body and the antenna apparatus can be set larger, and the decrease of the antenna gain caused by the electromagnetic influence of the human body can be suppressed during a telephone conversation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other objects and features of the present invention will become clear from the following description taken in conjunction with the preferred embodiments thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings throughout which like parts are designated by like reference numerals, and in which:

Fig. 1A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication

apparatus in an open state thereof according to a first preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 1B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 1A;

5 Fig. 1C is a plan view of an antenna element 112 employed in the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 1A and 1B;

Fig. 2 is a circuit diagram of antenna elements 102A and 901 and a radio communication circuit 110 connected with antenna elements 102A and 901 of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in
10 Fig. 1A;

Fig. 3A is a plan view of an electrically insulating ring 201 employed in a folding portable radio communication apparatus according to a first modified preferred embodiment of the first preferred embodiment of the present invention;

15 Fig. 3B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus that includes the insulating ring 201 shown in Fig. 3A;

Fig. 4 is a circuit diagram showing an equivalent circuit of an antenna apparatus of the folding portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 3A and 3B;

20 Fig. 5A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a second modified preferred embodiment of the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 5B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 5A;

25 Fig. 6A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a third modified preferred embodiment of the first preferred embodiment of the present

invention;

Fig. 6B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 6A;

Fig. 7A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a second preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 7B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 7A;

Fig. 8A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a modified preferred embodiment of the second preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 8B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 8A;

Fig. 9A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a third preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 9B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 9A;

Fig. 10A is a perspective view showing a hinge portion 503 for use in the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 9A and 9B;

Fig. 10B is a perspective view showing a fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 505 connected with the hinge portion 503 shown in Fig. 10A and an antenna element 504 connected with the member 505;

Fig. 11A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a fourth preferred

embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 11B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 11A;

Fig. 12A is a perspective view showing a pair of hinge portions
5 603 and 604 employed in the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 11A and 11B;

Fig. 12B is a perspective view showing (a) a fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 606 connected with the hinge portion 603 shown in Fig. 12A, (b) an antenna element 605 connected with the fitting
10 intrusive circular cylindrical member 606, (c) a fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 608 connected with the hinge portion 604 shown in Fig. 12A, and (d) an antenna element 607 connected with the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 608;

Fig. 13 is a circuit diagram showing a configuration of the radio
15 communication circuit 110 connected with a hinge portion 604 of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 11A and 11B;

Fig. 14A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a modified preferred embodiment of the fourth preferred embodiment of the present
20 invention;

Fig. 14B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 14A;

Fig. 15A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in a closed state thereof according to a fifth preferred
25 embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 15B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 15B;

Fig. 16 is a plan view of the portable radio communication apparatus when an upper housing 702 of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 15A and 15B is rotated counterclockwise by about 45 degrees;

5 Fig. 17A is a plan view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 15A and 15B in an open state thereof;

 Fig. 17B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 17A;

 Fig. 18 is a circuit diagram showing a configuration of the
10 antenna elements 702A and 901 and the radio communication circuit 110 connected with the antenna elements 702A and 901 in the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 17A;

 Fig. 19A is a plan view of a portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a modified preferred
15 embodiment of the fifth preferred embodiment of the present invention;

 Fig. 19B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 19A;

 Fig. 20 is a longitudinal sectional view showing a detailed configuration in the vicinity of a flat electrical insulator 922 shown in Fig.
20 19B;

 Fig. 21 is a longitudinal sectional view showing a detailed configuration in the vicinity of the antenna element 921 in a further modified preferred embodiment of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 19A;

25 Fig. 22A shows a first implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from an inner side surface of the upper second housing

portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus;

Fig. 22B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 22A;

Fig. 22C is a plan view showing an outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 22A;

Fig. 23A shows a second implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper first housing portion 102a of the portable radio communication apparatus;

Fig. 23B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper first housing portion 102a shown in Fig. 23A;

Fig. 23C is a plan view showing an outer side surface of the upper first housing portion 102a shown in Fig. 23A;

Fig. 24A shows a third implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus;

Fig. 24B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 24A;

Fig. 24C is a plan view showing the outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 24A;

Fig. 25A shows a fourth implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus;

Fig. 25B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 25A;

Fig. 25C is a plan view showing an outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 25A;

Fig. 26A shows a fifth implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective
5 view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus;

Fig. 26B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 26A;

Fig. 26C is a plan view showing an outer side surface of the
10 upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 26A;

Fig. 27A shows a sixth implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus;

Fig. 27B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the
15 upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 27A;

Fig. 27C is a plan view showing an outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 27A;

Fig. 28A shows a seventh implemental example applied to the
20 preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus;

Fig. 28B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 28A;

Fig. 28C is a plan view showing an outer side surface of the
25 upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 28A;

Fig. 29A shows an eighth implemental example applied to the

preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus;

Fig. 29B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 29A;

Fig. 29C is a plan view showing an outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 29A

Fig. 30A shows a ninth implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus;

Fig. 30B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 30A;

Fig. 30C is a plan view showing an outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 30A;

Fig. 31A shows a tenth implemental example applied to the fifth preferred embodiment of the present invention, and is a plan view showing that the upper housing 702 of the portable radio communication apparatus is detached;

Fig. 31B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 31A;

Fig. 32A is a plan view of the folding portable radio communication apparatus in a closed state thereof according to a sixth preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 32B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 32A;

Fig. 33A a plan view of the portable radio communication

apparatus shown in Figs. 32A and 32B in an open state thereof;

Fig. 33B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 33A;

Fig. 34 is a front view which illustrate one example in which the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 32A is used while being suspended from a neck of a user;

Fig. 35A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in a closed state thereof according to a modified preferred embodiment of the sixth preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 35B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 35A;

Fig. 36A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a seventh preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 36B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 36A;

Fig. 37A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in a closed state thereof according to an eighth preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 37B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 37A;

Fig. 38A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a modified preferred embodiment of the eighth preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 38B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 39A;

Fig. 39A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in a closed state thereof according to a ninth preferred embodiment of the present invention;

5 Fig. 39B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 39A;

Fig. 40A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in a closed state thereof according to a tenth preferred embodiment of the present invention;

10 Fig. 40B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 40A;

Fig. 41A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in a closed state thereof according to a modified preferred embodiment of the tenth preferred embodiment of the present invention;

15 Fig. 41B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 41A;

Fig. 42A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus according to an eleventh preferred embodiment of the present invention;

20 Fig. 42B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 42A;

Fig. 43 is a longitudinal sectional view showing a detailed configuration of a boom portion 910 of a portable radio communication apparatus according to a further modified preferred embodiment of the preferred embodiments of the present invention;

25 Fig. 44A is a plan view of a slide type portable radio communication apparatus according to a twelfth preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 44B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 44A;

Fig. 45A is a plan view of a slide type portable radio communication apparatus according to a modified preferred embodiment of the twelfth preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 45B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 45A;

Fig. 46A is a plan view of a straight type portable radio communication apparatus according to a thirteenth preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 46B is a rear view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 46A;

Fig. 46C is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 46A;

Fig. 47A is a plan view of a straight type portable radio communication apparatus according to a modified preferred embodiment of the thirteenth preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 47B is a rear view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 47A; and

Fig. 47C is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 47A.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described hereinafter with reference to the drawings. In the drawings, similar components are denoted by the same reference symbols, respectively.

FIRST PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Fig. 1A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a first preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 1B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 1A. Fig. 1C is a plan view of an antenna element 112 for use in the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 1A and 1B.

Referring to Figs. 1A and 1B, the portable radio communication apparatus according to the first preferred embodiment includes an upper housing 102 and a lower housing 103, where the housings 102 and 103 are connected with each other through a circular cylindrical uniaxial hinge portion 104, so as to be foldable through the circular cylindrical uniaxial hinge portion 104. The upper housing 102 includes an upper first housing portion 102a arranged on the inside thereof, and an upper second housing portion 102b arranged on the outside thereof. These upper first and second housing portions 102a and 102b are bonded and coupled together. A surface of the upper first housing portion 102a that opposes to the inside of the same apparatus will be referred to as an inner side surface, and a surface of the upper second housing portion 102b that opposes to the outside of the same apparatus will be referred to as an outer side surface, hereinafter. Further, the hinge portion 104 is formed integrally, for example, with the upper first housing portion 102a, is fitted into the central portion of an upper end (located between an upper left end 103p and an upper right end 103q) of the lower housing 103, and is penetrated through a circular cylindrical hollow of the circular cylindrical hinge portion 104. This leads to that the upper housing 102 and the lower housing 103 are rotatable and foldable about the hinge portion 104 by a circular cylindrical shaft (not shown)

extending into the upper left end 103p and the upper right end 103q of the lower housing 103. The two housing portions 102a and 102b are penetrated into the upper first housing portion 102a from the inner side surface to the outer side surface and screwed by respective screws 113
5 and 114 on the left and right corner portions of the lower ends to a screw reception portion 115 of the upper second housing portion 102b.

At least one part of the upper first housing portion 102a is made of an electrically conductive material such as magnesium or zinc, whereas the upper second housing portion 102b is made of an
10 electrically insulating material such as a resin material. As will be described later in detail, all of the upper first housing portion 102b may be made of an electrically conductive material. Alternatively, the upper first housing portion 102b may be made of an electrically insulating material such as a resin material with an electrical conductor layer made
15 of an electrically conductive material formed on its surface. The portion of the upper first housing portion 102a that is formed by at least the electrically conductive material will be referred to as a conductor portion hereinafter.

Further, a liquid crystal display 105 is located substantially in
20 the central portion of the inner side surface of the upper first housing portion 102a and a sound hole portion 106 is arranged above the liquid crystal display 105 at an upper end portion of the inner side surface of the upper first housing portion 102a. A loudspeaker 154 of Fig. 2, that generates a voice of a party on the other end of the communication line
25 during a telephone conversation, is arranged immediately under the sound hole portion 106 so that a user of the portable radio communication apparatus can listen to the voice generated by the

loudspeaker 154 through the sound hole portion 106. Further, a
microphone 107 is arranged on a surface of the lower housing 103 that
opposes to the inside (whose surface will be referred to as an inner side
surface hereinafter) in the vicinity of a lower end on an opposite side to
5 the hinge portion 104, and a chargeable battery 108 is arranged on a
surface of the opposite side to the microphone 107 on the lower housing
103 (whose surface will be referred to as an outer side surface
hereinafter). A printed wiring board 109 is arranged on the inside of the
lower housing 103 and substantially in the central portion of the lower
10 housing 103 in the thickness direction thereof. As shown in Fig. 2, a
radio communication circuit 110 that includes a radio receiver 152 and
a radio transmitter 153 is formed on the printed wiring board 109.

A connection point 111 that serves as a feeding point of the radio
communication circuit 110 is connected with a screw 113 of the upper
15 housing 102 through an antenna element 122, and the screw 113 is
electrically connected with the conductor portion of the upper first
housing portion 102a. The antenna element 122 is provided so as to
extend from the radio communication circuit 110 of the lower housing
103 to the screw 113 through an inside of an upper right end of the
20 lower housing 103, an inside of the hinge portion 104, and an inside of
the upper second housing portion 102b.

As shown in Fig. 1C, an electrical conductor ring 112a having a
circular hole 112h is provided on one end of the antenna element 122.
The screw 113 is penetrated through the circular hole 112h, and
25 contacted and electrically connected with the conductor ring 112a.
Therefore, the connection point 111 of the radio communication circuit
110 is electrically connected with the conductor portion of the upper first

housing portion 102a through the antenna element 112 and the screw 113, and then, the antenna element 112 and the conductor portion of the upper first housing portion 102a operate as a first antenna element 102A of Fig. 2 of the portable radio communication apparatus.

5 A boom portion 910, which is made of a resin material (preferably a flexible resin material) which is curved and generally circular cylindrical, is provided so as to be connected with left and right ends on an upper end surface of the lower housing 103. Namely, both ends of the boom portion 910 are connected with the left and right ends of the
10 upper end surface of the lower housing 103, respectively, so as to be substantially bilaterally symmetric in the width direction or the horizontal direction of the portable radio communication apparatus. In this case, in a space surrounded by the boom portion 910 and the lower housing 103, a penetrating hole (or an air space or gap) 910h is formed.
15 In addition, an antenna element 901 that operates as a second antenna element of the portable radio communication apparatus and that has a length such as a quarter of wavelength or the like is included in the boom portion 910. Further, the antenna element 901 is electrically connected with a connection point 902 that serves as a feeding point of
20 the radio communication circuit 110 from an inside of the boom portion 910 through an inside of the lower housing 103.

 Fig. 2 is a circuit diagram of the antenna elements 102A and 901 and the radio communication circuit 110 connected with the antenna elements 102A and 901 of the portable radio communication apparatus
25 shown in Fig. 1A.

 Referring to Fig. 2, the antenna element 102A is connected with a first terminal of a circulator 151 through the connection point 111 and a

contact "a" of a switch SW1, and further, the antenna element 901 is connected thereto through the connection point 902 and a contact "b" of the switch SW1. A second terminal of the circulator 151 is connected with the radio receiver 152 that includes the loudspeaker 154 and a
5 third terminal thereof is connected with the radio transmitter 153 that includes the microphone 107. The operations of the radio receiver 152, the radio transmitter 153, and the switch SW1 are controlled by a controller 150.

A radio signal received by the antenna element 102A or 901 is
10 inputted to the radio receiver 152 through the switch SW1 and the circulator 151. The radio receiver 152 subjects the inputted radio signal to low noise amplification, frequency transform, a demodulation processing, thereby extracting a voice and character data and image data contained in the radio signal from the radio signal, and outputting
15 the extracted data to the loudspeaker 154 and also to the liquid crystal display 105 to display the extracted data on the display 105. On the other hand, voice and character data and image data to be transmitted are inputted to the radio transmitter 153 from the microphone 107 or the controller 150. The radio transmitter 153 subjects a carrier signal
20 to modulation, frequency transform, power amplification, and the like according to the inputted voice and character data and image data to thereby generate a radio signal, and outputs the radio signal to the antenna element 102A or 901 through the circulator 151 and the switch SW1 to project the radio signal.

25 The controller 150 compares, for example, a signal level of the radio signal received at the antenna element 102A with that of the radio signal received at the antenna element 901 and selectively switches over

to the antenna element that receives the radio signal at the higher signal level using the switch SW1, thereby executing a reception diversity processing. Further, the controller selects one of the antenna elements based on results of the reception diversity processing to transmit the radio signal from the selected antenna element. Alternatively, by transmitting the radio signal using the both antenna elements 102A and 901 simultaneously and controlling the amplitude and the phase of the radio signal fed to the two antenna elements 102A and 901, the controller 150 may execute a transmission diversity processing.

As mentioned above, according to the first preferred embodiment, the conductor portion of the upper first housing portion 102a that is a part of the upper housing 102 is allowed to operate as a part of the antenna element 102A. Then, this leads to that the number of parts can be decreased while maintaining good antenna characteristics, and the manufacturing cost can be reduced. In addition, by forming the conductor portion of the upper first housing portion 102a using the electrically conductive material having an excellent mechanical strength such as magnesium or the like, it is possible to increase the strength of the portable radio communication apparatus against the impact such as that upon the user's dropping the same apparatus. Further, since no space occupied by an antenna apparatus is required, the portable radio communication apparatus can be made thinner and lighter in weight than the conventional apparatus. Besides, since an area of the antenna elements can be made larger than a conventional external antenna such as a helical antenna, the maximum value of a current density can be reduced and an SAR (Specific Absorption Rate) can be suppressed to be lower.

The SAR is a power absorbed by an organic structure having a unit mass when an organism such as a human is put in an electromagnetic field. The SAR is classified to a whole-body average SAR and a local SAR. The radiofrequency safety guideline specifies, for
5 an ordinary environment (for ordinary people), that an arbitrary six-minute average of the whole-body average SAR is 0.08 W/kg or lower and the local SAR (six-minute average) for an arbitrary structure of 10 g is 2 W/kg or lower (3 W/kg for the limbs).

In the present preferred embodiment, the conductor portion of
10 the upper first housing portion 102a is electrically connected with the antenna element 112 by the screw 113. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and they may be electrically connected with each other using the other method such as a soldering method, a crimping terminal connection method or a mechanical forced contact method
15 without using the screw 113.

In the present preferred embodiment, the antenna element 102A is constituted by using the conductor portion of the upper first housing portion 102a and the antenna element 112. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and the antenna element 102A may be
20 made of a feeding line such as a coaxial cable so as to feed the radio signal to the antenna element 102A through the feeding line.

In the present preferred embodiment, the portable radio communication apparatus includes the two antenna elements 102A and 901. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and the
25 portable radio communication apparatus may not include the boom portion 910 and the antenna element 901.

In the present preferred embodiment, the circular cylindrical

hinge portion 104 is employed. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and a biaxial hinge portion 704 of Fig. 15A may be employed.

5 In the present preferred embodiment, the boom portion 910 is connected with the lower housing 103. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and the boom portion 910 may be connected with the upper housing 102.

Fig. 3A is a plan view of an electrically insulating ring 201 employed in a folding portable radio communication apparatus according to a first modified preferred embodiment of the first preferred embodiment according to the present invention. Fig. 3B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus that includes the insulating ring 201 shown in Fig. 3A. Fig. 4 is a circuit diagram showing an equivalent circuit of the antenna apparatus of the folding portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 3A and 3B.

15 In the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 1A and 1B, the antenna element 112 is screwed with the upper first housing portion 102a through the screw 113. However, the present invention is not limited to this. For example, the electrically insulating ring 201 made of a dielectric material and having a circular hole 201h shown in Fig. 3A may be inserted between the upper first housing portion 102a and an electrical conductor ring 112b (having a larger circular hole than the conductor ring 112a) of the antenna element 112 as shown in Fig. 3B, and this leads to that not only the screwing effect but also a capacitive feeding effect can be attained. As shown in Fig. 3B, the screw 113 is not mechanically contacted with the conductor ring 112b of the antenna element 112, and a capacitance of the insulating

ring 201 is formed between the screw 113 and the antenna element 112.

Therefore, as shown in the equivalent circuit of Fig. 4, the antenna element 102A is constituted, for example, so that a plurality of inductances L1, L2, ..., and LN is connected with each other by a connection point 102Ac on one end of each inductance. The connection point 102Ac is connected with the radio transmitter 153 through an inductance LM of the screw 113, the capacitance C0 of the insulating ring 201, and an inductance L0 of the antenna element 112. Since the antenna element 102A is constituted so that the plural inductances L1, L2, ..., and LN are connected with each other at the connection point 102Ac on one end of each inductance, the portable radio communication apparatus can provide wide band characteristics. In addition, there can be obtained the following two resonance frequencies: (a) a first resonance frequency obtained when the capacitance C0 of the insulating ring 201 is inserted; and (b) a second resonance frequency, which is higher than the first resonance frequency, and which is obtained when the capacitance C0 of the insulating ring 201 is not inserted. Then, this leads to that the portable radio communication apparatus can provide wide band characteristics and operate in the two bands.

Fig. 5A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a second modified preferred embodiment of the first preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 5B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 5A.

In the portable radio communication apparatus according to the first preferred embodiment, a thin-film-shaped electrically insulating seal 301 made of a dielectric material or a magnetic material such as

acryl and having a thickness such as about 0.2 to 0.3 mm may be formed on an entire surface or a part of the inside of the upper first housing portion 102a, for example, by adhesion, as shown in Figs. 5A and 5B. This can prevent a part of a human body from directly
5 contacting with the inner side surface of the upper first housing portion 102a that operates as the antenna element 102A, and can lower the decrease in the antenna gain caused by the human body during a telephone conversation. In addition, the distance between the antenna element 102A and the human body can be set larger, and the SAR can
10 be kept lower. Alternatively, a transparent panel or a coating member made of a dielectric material such as a resin material may be employed instead of the insulating seal 301.

Fig. 6A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a third modified
15 preferred embodiment of the first preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 6B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 6A.

The portable radio communication apparatus according to the third modified preferred embodiment of the first preferred embodiment is
20 different from that according to the first preferred embodiment shown in Figs. 1A and 1B, in that the upper first housing portion 102a is divided to a first part 102a-1 and a second part 102a-2. In this case, the first and second parts 102a-1 and 102a-2 have half the thickness of the upper first housing portion 102a, respectively, and are fitted and bonded
25 together in the vicinity of the lower end of the upper first housing portion 102a at a position where the screw 113 is arranged. The screw 113 is screwed with the screw reception portion 115 from the inner side surface

of the upper housing 102 through the second part 102a-2 and the first part 102a-1 of the upper first housing portion 102a and the upper second housing portion 102b.

SECOND PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

5 Fig. 7A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a second preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 7B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 7A. The portable radio communication apparatus according to the second
10 preferred embodiment is different from that according to the first preferred embodiment in the following points.

(a) At least one part of the upper second housing portion 102b is made of an electrically conductive material such as magnesium or zinc, and the upper first housing portion 102a is made of an electrically
15 insulating material such as a resin material or the like. All of the upper second housing portion 102b may be made of an electrically conductive material. Alternatively, the upper second housing portion 102b may be made of an electrically insulating material such as a resin material with an electrical conductor layer made of an electrically conductive material
20 formed on its surface. The portion of the upper second housing portion 102b that is formed by at least the electrically conductive material will be referred to as a conductor portion hereinafter.

(b) The connection point 111 that serves as a feeding point of the radio communication circuit 110 is connected with the screw 113 of
25 the upper housing 102 through the antenna element 122, and further, the screw 113 is electrically connected with the upper second housing portion 102b of the housing 102. Therefore, the connection point 111 of

the radio communication circuit 110 is electrically connected with the conductor portion of the upper second housing portion 102b through the antenna element 112 and the screw 113, and then, the antenna element 112 and the conductor portion of the upper second housing portion 102b operate as the first antenna element 102A of the portable radio communication apparatus.

The portable radio communication apparatus constituted as mentioned above has the same functions and advantageous effects as those of the portable radio communication apparatus according to the first preferred embodiment. In addition, since the distance between the antenna element 102A and the human body can be set larger during a telephone conversation, the portable radio communication apparatus can advantageously suppress the decrease of the antenna gain caused by the electromagnetic influence of the human body. In addition, since the upper first housing portion 102a includes the liquid crystal display 105, it is necessary to secure a high strength of the upper first housing portion 102a against an impact upon the user's dropping the same apparatus. However, it is unnecessary to secure a high strength of the upper second housing portion 102b, thereby increasing the degree of freedom for designing the same apparatus.

In the present preferred embodiment, by inserting the insulating ring 201 shown in Fig. 3A between the antenna element 112 and the upper second housing portion 102b, the capacitive feeding to the antenna element 102A may be performed.

In the present preferred embodiment, the conductor portion of the upper second housing portion 102b is electrically connected with the antenna element 112 by the screw 113. However, the present invention

is not limited to this, and they may be electrically connected with each other using the other method such as the soldering method, the crimping terminal connection method or the mechanical forced contact method without using the screw 113.

5 Fig. 8A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a modified preferred embodiment of the second preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 8B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 8A.

10 The portable radio communication apparatus according to the modified preferred embodiment of the second preferred embodiment is different from that according to the second preferred embodiment shown in Figs. 7A and 7B, in that the upper second housing portion 102b is divided to a first part 102b-1 and a second part 102b-2. In this case,
15 the first and second parts 102b-1 and 102b-2 have half the thickness of the upper second housing portion 102b, respectively, and are fitted and bonded together in the vicinity of the lower end of the upper second housing portion 102b at a position at which the screw 113 is arranged. The screw 113 is screwed with the screw reception portion 115 from the
20 inner side surface of the upper housing 102 through the upper first housing portion 102a, the first part 102b-1 and the second part 102b-2 of the upper second housing portion 102b.

THIRD PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

25 Fig. 9A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a third preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 9B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 9A. Fig. 10A is

a perspective view showing a hinge portion 503 for use in the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 9A and 9B. Fig. 10B is a perspective view showing a fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 505 connected with the hinge portion 503 shown in Fig. 10A and an antenna element 504 connected with the member 505.

The portable radio communication apparatus according to the third preferred embodiment is different from that according to the first preferred embodiment shown in Figs. 1A and 1B in the following points.

(a) The portable radio communication apparatus includes the hinge portion 503 of Fig. 10A made of an electrically conductive material such as aluminum or zinc, instead of the hinge portion 104.

(b) The portable radio communication apparatus includes the antenna element 504, and the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 505 which is made of an electrically conductive material such as aluminum or zinc and fitted into the hinge portion 503, instead of the antenna element 112, as shown in Figs. 9A and 10B.

Referring to Fig. 10A, the hinge portion 503 is constituted by a circular cylindrical portion 503a and two leg portions 503b and 503c extending from left and right ends of the circular cylindrical portion 503a as being inclined from an upward direction, respectively. The leg portions 503b and 503c include circular holes 503bh and 503ch, respectively, so as to penetrate them in the thickness direction thereof in the vicinity of the ends thereof. The leg portions 503b and 503c are fitted into the upper second housing portion 102b, and screws 113 and 114 are inserted into the circular holes 503bh and 503ch, respectively. Then, the leg portions 503b and 503c are screwed with the upper second housing portion 102b by the screws 113 and 114.

Referring to Fig. 10B, one end of the antenna element 504 is connected with a part of a circular cylindrical end surface of the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 505. The fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 505 is formed so that an outside diameter of the member 505 is substantially equal to an inside diameter of the circular cylindrical portion 503a of the hinge portion 503, and the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 505 is inserted into the circular cylindrical on the inside of the circular cylindrical portion 503a, and is fitted thereinto.

In the portable radio communication apparatus constituted as mentioned above, the connection point 111 that serves as the feeding point of the radio communication circuit 110 is electrically connected with the first upper housing portion 102a through the antenna element 504, the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 505, and the hinge portion 503. Therefore, the antenna element 504, the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 505, the hinge portion 503, and the upper first housing portion 102a can operate as the first antenna element 102A.

In this case, at the connection point between the hinge portion 503 and the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 505 or at the connection point 111, an input impedance for the antenna is preferably low sufficiently to a predetermined impedance such as 50 Ω or the like in a predetermined frequency band such as 900 MHz or the like.

In the portable radio communication apparatus constituted as mentioned above, the antenna element 504, the hinge portion 503 and the upper first housing portion 102a operate as the first antenna element 102A. Therefore, as compared with the portable radio communication apparatus in which only the upper first housing portion

102a operates as the antenna element, the antenna apparatus can be made larger in size and the antenna gain can be thereby remarkably improved. Further, it is unnecessary to extend the antenna element 112 toward the upper housing 102 through the inside of the hinge portion 104 as shown in Fig. 1A. Therefore, a diameter of the hinge portion 104 can be made small, and the portable radio communication apparatus can be made thinner. Besides, it is possible to reduce the load on the antenna element 112 when the portable radio communication apparatus is opened or closed, and this leads to improvement of the durability of the portable radio communication apparatus.

In the present preferred embodiment, the portable radio communication apparatus may be constituted, so that, for example, the insulating ring 201 of Fig. 3A is inserted between the hinge portion 503 and the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 505 and then a radio signal is fed to the antenna element 102A through a capacitance.

In the present preferred embodiment, the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 503 is arranged in the circular cylindrical inside of the hinge portion 503. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and the antenna element 504 may be formed to extend toward the upper housing 102 as shown in Fig. 1A.

In the present preferred embodiment, the upper first housing portion 102a is employed as a part of the antenna element 102A. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and the hinge portion 503 may be electrically connected with the upper second housing portion 102b, and the upper second housing portion 102b may be employed as a component of the antenna elements 102A as shown in

Fig. 7A. In this case, it is possible to set the distance between the human body and the antenna element 102A larger, and to suppress the decrease of the antenna gain caused by the electromagnetic influence of the human body during a telephone conversation.

5 FOURTH PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Fig. 11A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a fourth preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 11B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 11A. Fig. 12A is
10 a perspective view showing a pair of hinge portions 603 and 604 employed in the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 11A and 11B. Fig. 12B is a perspective view showing (a) a fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 606 connected with the hinge portion 603 shown in Fig. 12A, (b) an antenna element 605 connected
15 with the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 606, (c) a fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 608 connected with the hinge portion 604 shown in Fig. 12A, and (d) an antenna element 607 connected with the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 608. Fig. 13 is a circuit diagram showing a configuration of the radio
20 communication circuit 110 connected with a hinge portion 604 of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 11A and 11B.

The portable radio communication apparatus according to the fourth preferred embodiment is different from that according to the third preferred embodiment in the following points:

25 (a) The portable radio communication apparatus includes the hinge portions 603 and 604 made of an electrically conductive material such as magnesium or zinc, instead of the hinge portion 104.

(b) The fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 606 which the antenna element 605 is connected with is fitted into the hinge portion 603.

5 (c) The fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 608 which the antenna element 607 is connected with is fitted into the hinge portion 603.

(d) The antenna element 607 is connected with a reactance element 610 or 611 through a connection point 609 of the radio communication circuit 110. The reactance elements 610 and 611 may
10 be variable reactance elements such as varactor diodes or the like.

Referring to Fig. 12A, the hinge portion 603 is constituted by a circular cylindrical portion 603a and a leg portion 603b, which extends from a circular cylindrical outer peripheral surface of the circular cylindrical portion 603a and has a circular hole 603h. The hinge
15 portion 604 is constituted by a circular cylindrical portion 604a and a leg portion 604b, which extends from a circular cylindrical outer peripheral surface of the circular cylindrical portion 604a and has a circular hole 604h.

Referring to Fig. 12B, the circular cylindrical fitting intrusive
20 member 606, which the antenna element 605 is connected with, is inserted and fitted into a circular cylindrical inside of the circular cylindrical portion 603a of the hinge portion 603, and further, the circular cylindrical fitting intrusive member 608, which the antenna element 607 is connected with, is inserted and fitted into a circular
25 cylindrical inside of the circular cylindrical portion 604a of the hinge portion 604.

Referring to Fig. 11A, the circular cylindrical portion 603a of the

hinge portion 603 is inserted and fitted between an upper left end 103p of the lower housing 103 and a protruding circular cylindrical portion 103r, and the leg portion 603b of the hinge portion 603 is inserted and fitted to the upper second housing portion 102b. Then, the screw 113 is
5 inserted into the circular hole 603h, and this leads to that the hinge portion 603 is screwed with the upper housing 102 by the screw 113. In addition, the circular cylindrical portion 604a of the hinge portion 604 is inserted and fitted between an upper left end 103q of the lower housing 103 and the protruding circular cylindrical portion 103r, and
10 the leg portion 604b of the hinge portion 604 is inserted and fitted to the upper second housing portion 102b. Then, the screw 114 is inserted into the circular hole 604h, and this leads to that the hinge portion 604 is screwed with the upper housing 102 by the screw 114. The connection point 111 of the radio communication circuit 110 is
15 connected with the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 606 through the antenna element 605 that is provided so as to extend into the lower housing 103. The connection point 609 of the radio communication circuit 110 is connected with the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 608 through the antenna element 607 that
20 is provided so as to extend into the lower housing 103.

In the portable radio communication apparatus constituted as mentioned above, the connection point 111 of the radio communication circuit 110 is electrically connected with the upper first housing 102a through the antenna element 605, the fitting intrusive circular
25 cylindrical member 606, the hinge portion 603, and the screw 113. In addition, the connection point 609 of the radio communication circuit 110 is electrically connected with the upper first housing 102a through

the antenna element 607, the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 608, the hinge portion 604, and the screw 114. A circuit ranging from the antenna element 605 to the upper first housing portion 102a and a circuit ranging from the antenna element 607 to the upper first housing portion 102a constitute the first antenna element 102A. In the present preferred embodiment, as shown in Fig. 13, the antenna element 102A is connected with one of reactance elements 610 and 611 respectively having reactance values X_a and X_b different from each other, through the connection point 609 and a switch SW2 controlled by a controller 150.

In addition, the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 606 is connected with the connection point 111 through the antenna element 605, and the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 608 is connected with a terminal 609a of the connection point 609 arranged on the antenna element 607. Further, a terminal 609b of the connection point 609 is connected with the first reactance element 610, and a terminal 609c thereof is connected with the second reactance element 611.

For example, when the switch SW1 of Fig. 2 is switched over to the contact "a" or the contact "b" thereof to use only the antenna element 102A as the antenna apparatus and the switch SW2 of Fig. 13 is switched over to the contact "a" or the contact "b" thereof, the reactance value of the reactance element connected with the antenna element 102A changes, and then, the resonance frequency of the antenna element 120A changes. Therefore, an operating frequency can be switched over, for example, by time division of transmission and reception. Alternatively, by switching over the switch SW2 to the

contact "a" or the contact "b", for example, in accordance with the open or closed state of the portable radio communication apparatus, the reactance elements 610 and 611 may be selectively switched over. As a result, a condition of an object located in the vicinity of the antenna element 102A changes depending on whether the portable radio communication apparatus is in an open state or a closed state thereof, and then, the reactance elements 610 and 611 are selectively switched over according to the condition so as to be able to obtain a higher antenna gain.

Furthermore, when the switch SW1 of Fig. 2, for example, is switched over to the contact "b" to use only the antenna element 102A as the antenna apparatus, the antenna element 102A can operate as a parasitic element. When the switch SW2 of Fig. 13 is switched over to the contact "a" or the contact "b", the reactance value of the reactance element connected with the antenna element 102A changes. Namely, it is possible to change the electric length of the antenna element 102A that operates as a parasitic element for the antenna element 901. Therefore, it is possible to change directivity characteristics of the entire antenna apparatus.

In the present preferred embodiment shown in Fig. 13, the two reactance elements 610 and 611 are selectively switched over. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and three or more reactance elements may be selectively switched over.

In the present preferred embodiment, the first antenna element 102A is constituted by using the upper first housing portion 102a. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and the first antenna element 102A may be constituted by using the upper second

housing portion 102b.

In the present preferred embodiment, the hinge portions 603 and 604 made of the electrically conductive material are employed. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and the hinge portions 603 and 604 made of a dielectric material such as a resin material or the like may be employed, and the antenna elements 605 and 607 may be directly and electrically connected with the upper first housing portion 102a.

Fig. 14A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a modified preferred embodiment of the fourth preferred embodiment according to the present invention. Fig. 14B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 14A. The portable radio communication apparatus according to the first modified preferred embodiment of the fourth preferred embodiment is different from that according to the fourth preferred embodiment by including an antenna element 612, instead of the antenna element 607 and the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 608.

Referring to Fig. 14A, the antenna element 612 is formed to extend into the lower housing 103, the hinge portion 603, and the upper second housing portion 102b so as to be connected with the screw 114. Therefore, the connection point 609 of the radio communication circuit 110 is electrically connected with the upper first housing portion 102a through the antenna element 612 and the screw 114. The portable radio communication apparatus according to the modified preferred embodiment of the fourth preferred embodiment constituted as mentioned above has the same functions and advantageous effects as

those of the portable radio communication apparatus according to the fourth preferred embodiment.

FIFTH PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Fig. 15A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in a closed state thereof according to a fifth preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 15B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 15A. Fig. 16 is a plan view of the portable radio communication apparatus when an upper housing 702 of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 15A and 15B is rotated counterclockwise by about 45 degrees. Fig. 17A is a plan view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 15A and 15B in an open state thereof, and Fig. 17B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 17A.

The portable radio communication apparatus according to the fifth preferred embodiment is different from that according to the first preferred embodiment in the following points.

(a) The portable radio communication apparatus includes the biaxial hinge portion 704 having a CCD camera 706 arranged in central portion thereof, instead of the uniaxial hinge portion 104. It is noted that at least one part of the biaxial hinge portion 704 is made of an electrically conductive material, and the biaxial hinge portion 704 is provided in an upper central portion of a lower housing 703.

(b) The portable radio communication apparatus includes an antenna element 802, instead of the antenna element 112.

(c) The portable radio communication apparatus includes an upper housing 702 that includes an upper first housing portion 702a

and an upper second housing portion 702b, instead of the upper housing 102. The upper housing 702 includes the same components as those of the upper housing 102. In addition, in a manner similar to that of the upper first housing portion 102a, at least one part of the upper first housing portion 702a is made of an electrically conductive material, and the upper first housing portion 702a includes a conductor portion.

(d) The portable radio communication apparatus includes the lower housing 703, instead of the lower housing 103. The lower housing 703 includes the same components as those of the lower housing 702.

Referring to Figs. 15A, 15B and 16, the upper housing 702 and the lower housing 703 are connected with each other, so that they are foldable through the biaxial hinge portion 704 and the upper housing 702 is rotatable about the biaxial hinge portion 704. Referring to Fig. 16, a key pad 705 is provided almost in the central portion of an inner side surface of the lower housing 703. Referring to Figs. 17A and 17B, the antenna element 802 is provided so as to extend from the inside of the lower housing 703 toward the upper housing 702 through the inside of the biaxial hinge portion 704. A connection point 801 (corresponding to the connection point 110 shown in Figs. 1(a) and 1(b)) that serves as a feeding point of the radio communication circuit 110 is electrically connected with an electrical conductor portion of the upper first housing portion 702a through the antenna element 802. The antenna element 802 and the upper first housing portion 702a constitute the first antenna element 702A in a manner similar to the antenna element 102A of the first preferred embodiment.

Fig. 18 is a circuit diagram showing a configuration of the antenna elements 702A and 901 and the radio communication circuit 110 connected with the antenna elements 702A and 901 of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 17A. Referring to Fig. 18, the antenna element 702A is electrically connected with the contact "a" of the switch SW1 through the connection point 801. The other circuits are constituted in a manner similar to that of Fig. 2. Accordingly, in the present preferred embodiment, the antenna elements 702A and 901 can be selectively switched over, and the portable radio communication apparatus according to the fifth preferred embodiment has the same functions and advantageous effects as those of the portable radio communication apparatus according to the first preferred embodiment.

In the present preferred embodiment, the antenna element 802 is connected with the conductor portion of the upper first housing portion 702a. However, the present invention is not limited to this. At least one part of the upper second housing portion 702b may be made of an electrically conductive material and the antenna element 802 may be connected with the conductor portion of the upper second housing portion 702b. In this case, it is possible to make the distance between the human body and the antenna element 702A larger, and to suppress the decrease of the antenna gain caused by the electromagnetic influence of the human body during a telephone conversation.

Fig. 19A is a plan view of a portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a modified preferred embodiment of the fifth preferred embodiment according to the present invention. Fig. 19B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 19A. Fig. 20 is a longitudinal sectional view

showing a detailed configuration in the vicinity of a flat electrical insulator 922 shown in Fig. 19B.

The portable radio communication apparatus according to the modified preferred embodiment of the fifth preferred embodiment is different from that according to the fifth preferred embodiment as follows.

A flat antenna element 921 is connected with a tip end of the antenna element 802, electrically connected with the conductor portion of the biaxial hinge portion 704 through the flat electrical insulator 922, and connected with the upper first housing portion 702a through the biaxial hinge portion 704. As shown in Fig. 20, the flat electrical insulator 922 is inserted between the flat antenna element 921 and the biaxial hinge portion 704 in the inside of the lower housing 703. In the portable radio communication apparatus constituted as mentioned above, a radio signal can be fed to the antenna apparatus through the capacitance in a manner similar to that of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 3B.

Fig. 21 is a longitudinal sectional view showing a detailed configuration in the vicinity of the antenna element 921 of a further modified preferred embodiment of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 19A. Referring to Fig. 21, the flat electrical insulator 922 shown in Fig. 20 is not employed, and the biaxial hinge portion 704 is constituted by forming an electrical conductor layer 704B on the resin housing portion 704A. In addition, the conductor layer 704B is electrically connected with the upper first housing portion 702a. By thus constituting the same apparatus, the flat antenna element 921 is electrically connected with the conductor layer 704B through the resin housing portion 704A. Therefore, in a manner similar to that of Fig. 20,

in the portable radio communication apparatus, a radio signal can be fed to the antenna apparatus through the capacitance.

The various kinds of implemental examples applied to the preferred embodiments mentioned above will be next described.

5 Fig. 22A shows a first implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus. Fig. 22B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second
10 housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 22A. Fig. 22C is a plan view showing an outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 22A.

Referring to Figs. 22A, 22B and 22C, an electrical conductor layer 102bm made of an electrically conductive material such as magnesium
15 or zinc is formed on the inner side surface of a resin housing portion 102bp (including the screw reception portions 115), thereby constituting the upper second housing portion 102b, and then, for example, electrically connecting the antenna element 112 with the conductor layer 102bm. In the first implemental example constituted as mentioned
20 above, by forming the conductor layer 102bm, the mechanical strength of the upper second housing portion 102b can be increased. In addition, since the upper housing 102 can be made of a resin material, the manufacturing cost can be reduced. Further, since a pattern of the conductor layer 102bm can be easily formed, it is possible to increase
25 the degree of freedom for designing the antenna apparatus. Besides, since the upper second housing portion 102b is located on the opposite side of the head of an operator relative to the upper first housing portion

102a, it is possible to make the distance between the human body and the antenna element 112 larger, and to improve the antenna gain and the SAR during a telephone conversation.

Fig. 23A shows a second implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper first housing portion 102a of the portable radio communication apparatus. Fig. 23B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper first housing portion 102a shown in Fig. 23A. Fig. 23C is a plan view showing the outer side surface of the upper first housing portion 102a shown in Fig. 23A.

Referring to Figs. 23A, 23B and 23C, an electrical conductor layer 103bm made of a magnetic material such as magnesium or zinc is formed on an inner side surface of a resin housing portion 103bp (including inner peripheral surfaces of circular holes 115h on the respective screw reception portions 115 but not including the liquid crystal display 105), thereby constituting the upper first housing portion 102a, and then, for example, electrically connecting the antenna element 112 with the conductor layer 103bm. In the second implemental example constituted as mentioned above, by forming the conductor layer 103bm, the mechanical strength of the upper first housing portion 102a can be increased. In addition, since the upper housing 102 can be made of a resin material, the manufacturing cost can be reduced. Further, since a forming pattern of the conductor layer 103bm can be easily formed, it is possible to increase the degree of freedom for designing the antenna apparatus.

Fig. 24A shows a third implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective

view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus. Fig. 24B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 24A. Fig. 24C is a plan view showing the outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 24A.

Referring to Figs. 24A, 24B and 24C, the conductor layer 102bm made of a magnetic material such as magnesium or zinc is formed on the inner side surface of the resin housing portion 102bp (including one of the screw reception portions 115 but not including lower end portions in the vicinity of the screw reception portions 115), thereby constituting the upper second housing portion 102b, and then, for example, electrically connecting the antenna element 112 with the conductor layer 102bm. In the third implemental example constituted as mentioned above, the upper housing 102 can be electrically connected with the lower housing 103.

Fig. 25A shows a fourth implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus. Fig. 25B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 25A. Fig. 25C is a plan view showing an outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 25A.

Referring to Figs. 25A, 25B and 25C, the conductor layer 102bm is made of an electrically conductive material such as magnesium or zinc, and includes a rectangular slot 931, for example, along an end portion

on the left side of the inner side surface in parallel to a vertical direction of the same apparatus. The conductor layer 102bm is formed on the inner side surface of a resin housing portion 102bp (including the screw reception portions 115). This leads to constituting the upper second housing portion 102b, and then, for example, electrically connecting the antenna element 112 with the conductor layer 102bm. In the fourth implemental example constituted as mentioned above, since the slot 931 is formed on the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b, an electrical conductor having a plurality of electric lengths can be formed on the conductor layer 102bm, and further, there can be realized the antenna element 102A that has a plurality of resonance frequencies and that can cover a plurality of frequency bands. Alternatively, a slit having an open end may be formed in place of the slot 931 of Figs. 25A and 25B.

Fig. 26A shows a fifth implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus. Fig. 26B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 26A. Fig. 26C is a plan view showing an outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 26A.

Referring to Figs. 26A, 26B and 26C, the conductor layer 102bm is made of an electrically conductive material such as magnesium or zinc, and includes a rectangular slit 932, for example, along the end portion on the left side of the inner side surface in parallel to the vertical direction of the same apparatus and extending toward an upper end

portion thereof. The conductor layer 102bm is formed on the inner side surface of a resin housing portion 102bp (including the screw reception portions 115). This leads to constituting the upper second housing portion 102b, and then, for example, electrically connecting the antenna element 112 with the conductor layer 102bm. In the fifth implemental example constituted as mentioned above, since the slit 932 is formed on the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b, an electrical conductor having a plurality of electric lengths can be formed on the conductor layer 102bm, and further, there can be realized the antenna element 102A that has a plurality of resonance frequencies and that can cover a plurality of frequency bands. The slit 932 is formed to have a longitudinal length of a quarter of wavelength, and operates as a quarter-wave resonance element. Therefore, the slit 932 can be realized with half the length of the slot 931.

Fig. 27A shows a sixth implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus. Fig. 27B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 27A. Fig. 27C is a plan view showing an outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 27A.

Referring to Figs. 27A, 27B and 27C, the conductor layer 102bm made of an electrically conductive material such as magnesium or zinc and including a rectangular slot 933 extending, for example, along a lower end portion of the inner side surface in parallel to a lateral or horizontal direction of the same apparatus is formed on the inner side

surface of the resin housing portion 102bp (including the screw reception portions 115). This leads to constituting the upper second housing portion 102b, and then, for example, electrically connecting the antenna element 112 with the conductor layer 102bm. In the sixth
5 implemental example constituted as mentioned above, since the slot 933 is formed on the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b, an electrical conductor having a plurality of electric lengths can be formed on the conductor layer 102bm, and further, there can be realized the antenna element 102A that has a plurality of resonance frequencies
10 and that can cover a plurality of frequency bands. Further, since the horizontal slot 933 is formed, a horizontally polarized radio wave can be projected from the antenna element 102A. On the other hand, since a vertically polarized radio wave is projected from the antenna element 901, polarization diversity can be constituted by using these two antenna
15 elements.

Fig. 28A shows a seventh implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus. Fig. 28B
20 is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 28A. Fig. 28C is a plan view showing an outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 28A.

Referring to Figs. 28A, 28B and 28C, the conductor layer 102bm
25 made of an electrically conductive material such as magnesium or zinc and including an inverted-U-shaped rectangular slot 934, which is formed to extend, for example, along the lower end portion of the inner

side surface in parallel to the lateral or horizontal direction of the same apparatus, and which has end portions extending downward is formed on the inner side surface of the resin housing portion 102bp (including the screw reception portions 115). This leads to constituting the upper
5 second housing portion 102b, and then, for example, electrically connecting the antenna element 112 with the conductor layer 102bm. In the seventh implemental example constituted as mentioned above, since the slot 934 is formed on the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b, an electrical conductor having a plurality
10 of electric lengths can be formed on the conductor layer 102bm, and further, there can be realized the antenna element 102A that has a plurality of resonance frequencies and that can cover a plurality of frequency bands. Further, by changing a formation pattern of the conductor layer 102bm, the length of the slot 934 can be adjusted so as
15 to adjust the respective resonance frequencies.

Fig. 29A shows an eighth implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus. Fig. 29B
20 is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 29A. Fig. 29C is a plan view showing an outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 29A.

Referring to Figs. 29A, 29B and 29C, the conductor layer 102bm
25 made of an electrically conductive material such as magnesium or zinc and including a rectangular slot 935 extending, for example, along the end portion on the left side of the inner side surface in parallel to the

vertical direction of the same apparatus is formed on the inner side surface of the resin housing portion 102bp (including the screw reception portions 115). This leads to constituting the upper second housing portion 102b, and then, for example, electrically connecting the antenna element 112 with the conductor layer 102bm. In addition, an electrical conductor layer 102bma extending along the end portion on the left side of the outer side surface in parallel to the vertical direction is formed on the outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b, and this leads to formation of a parasitic element. In the eighth implemental example constituted as mentioned above, the antenna apparatus can project a radio wave through the slot 935, and further, the directivity characteristics of the antenna apparatus can be controlled using the conductor layer 102bma that serves as a parasitic element. Therefore, it is possible to project the radio wave so that the main beam thereof is directed, for example, in an opposite direction to a direction of the operator's body. Further, since the slot 935 is formed on the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b, an electrical conductor having a plurality of electric lengths can be formed on the conductor layer 102bm, and further, there can be realized the antenna element 102A that has a plurality of resonance frequencies and that can cover a plurality of frequency bands.

Fig. 30A shows a ninth implemental example applied to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, and is a perspective view seen from the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b of the portable radio communication apparatus. Fig. 30B is a plan view showing the inner side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 30A. Fig. 30C is a plan view

showing an outer side surface of the upper second housing portion 102b shown in Fig. 30A.

Referring to Figs. 30A, 30B and 30C, rectangular electrical conductor layers 102bm1 and 120bm2 are formed on the inner side surface of the resin housing portion 102bp (including the screw reception portions 115). The rectangular electrical conductor layer 102bm1 made of an electrically conductive material such as magnesium or zinc is formed to extend, for example, along the end portion on the left side of the inner side surface in parallel to the vertical direction of the same apparatus. Further, the rectangular electrical conductor layer 102bm2 (which is different in the longitudinal length from the rectangular electrical conductor layer 102bm1) made of an electrically conductive material such as magnesium or zinc is formed to extend, for example, along the end portion on the right side of the inner side surface in parallel to the vertical direction of the same apparatus. This leads to constituting the upper second housing portion 102b, and then, for example, electrically connecting the antenna element 112 with the conductor layers 102bm1 and 102bm2. In the ninth implemental example constituted as mentioned above, since the two conductor layers 102bm1 and 102bm2 are formed on the inner side surface of the upper second housing 102b to serve a part of the antenna element 102A, an electrical conductor having a plurality of electric lengths can be formed on the antenna element 102A, and further, there can be realized the antenna element 102A that has a plurality of resonance frequencies and that can cover a plurality of frequency bands. Further, by changing forming patterns of the respective conductor layers 102bm1 and 102bm2, the electric length of the antenna element 102A can be adjusted so as to

adjust the respective resonance frequencies.

In the ninth implemental example, the portable radio communication apparatus may be constituted to selectively switch over the antenna element of the conductor layer 102bm1 and that of the conductor layer 102bm2. For example, the portable radio communication apparatus can be constituted to selectively switch over the two antenna elements so as to be able to attain a higher antenna gain depending on whether the portable radio communication apparatus is held in the operator's right hand or left hand.

Fig. 31A shows a tenth implemental example applied to the fifth preferred embodiment of the present invention, and is a plan view showing that the upper housing 702 of the portable radio communication apparatus is detached. Fig. 31B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 31A.

Referring to Figs. 31A and 31B, a resin layer 704p is formed on a front surface of the biaxial hinge portion 704 made of an electrically conductive material. Namely, by forming the resin layer 704p on the portion with which the operator's head contacts during a telephone conversation, the SAR can be reduced. The resin layer 704p may be formed by using a magnetic material.

SIXTH PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Fig. 32A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in a closed state thereof according to a sixth preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 32B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 32A. Fig. 33A is a plan view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Figs. 32A and 32B in an open state. Fig. 33B is a side view of the portable

radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 33A.

The portable radio communication apparatus according to the sixth preferred embodiment is different from that according to the first preferred embodiment by including an antenna element 211, instead of
5 the antenna element 112. The antenna element 211 is formed to extend from the connection point 111 of the radio communication circuit 110 toward a connection point 212 on the conductor portion of the upper first housing portion 102a through the inside of the lower housing 103, the inside of the hinge portion 104, and the inside of the upper first
10 housing portion 102a. Therefore, the connection point 111 of the radio communication circuit 110 is electrically connected with the conductor portion of the upper first housing portion 120a through the antenna element 211.

The portable radio communication apparatus according to the
15 sixth preferred embodiment constituted as mentioned above has the same functions and advantageous effects as those of the portable radio communication apparatus according to the first preferred embodiment. In addition, since the antenna element 901 is formed on the inside of the boom portion 910 and the conductor portion of the upper first housing
20 portion 120a operates as the antenna element 102A, the portable radio communication apparatus can transmit and receive radio waves without employing the external antenna as required in the conventional portable radio communication apparatus. Therefore, it is possible to prevent the external antenna from being got stuck with an operator's pocket when
25 taking out the same apparatus from his pocket. Further, since the penetrating hole 910h is formed in the space surrounded by the boom portion 910 and the lower housing 103, the portable radio

communication apparatus can be suspended from a neck of a user with a strap 910s attached to the boom portion 910 as shown in Fig. 34. In this case, since it is unnecessary to use the external antenna as used in the conventional portable radio communication apparatus, the portable
5 radio communication apparatus can be designed to be laterally symmetric, and further, the portable radio communication apparatus can be easily well balanced laterally or horizontally when the same apparatus is suspended from the neck of the user.

Fig. 35A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication
10 apparatus in a closed state thereof according to a modified preferred embodiment of the sixth preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 35B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 35A. The portable radio communication apparatus according to the modified preferred embodiment of the sixth preferred
15 embodiment is different from that according to the sixth preferred embodiment, in that at least one part of the upper second housing portion 102b is made of an electrically conductive material, and in that the antenna element 211 is electrically connected with the conductor portion of the upper second housing portion 102b at the connection
20 point 212. Namely, the antenna element 102A is constituted by using the antenna element 211 and the conductor portion of the upper second housing portion 102b. In this case, the upper first housing portion 102a may be made of either a resin material or an electrical conductive material. By thus constituting the portable radio communication
25 apparatus, it is possible to set the distance between the antenna element 102A and the human head larger, and to suppress the decrease of the antenna gain during a telephone conversation.

In the present preferred embodiment, the antenna element 211 may be constituted by using a feeding line such as a coaxial cable.

SEVENTH PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Fig. 36A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a seventh preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 36B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 36A.

The portable radio communication apparatus according to the seventh preferred embodiment is different from that according to the third preferred embodiment, in that the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 505 connected with the antenna element 504 is inserted and fitted into the circular cylindrical portion of the hinge portion 104 made of an electrically conductive material which is coupled with the upper first housing portion 102a. By thus constituting the portable radio communication apparatus, the connection point 111 of the radio communication circuit 110 is electrically connected with the conductor portion of the upper first housing portion 102a through the antenna element 504, the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 505, and the hinge portion 104. Accordingly, the portable radio communication apparatus according to the seventh preferred embodiment has the same functions and advantageous effects as those of the portable radio communication apparatus according to the third preferred embodiment. In addition, in a manner different from that of the first preferred embodiment, it is unnecessary to extend the antenna element 504 toward the upper housing 102 through the inside of the hinge portion 104. Due to this, the thickness of the upper housing 102 can be made smaller and the diameter of the hinge portion 104 can be

made smaller. Besides, the durability of the hinge portion 104 when the portable radio communication apparatus is opened or closed through the hinge portion 104 can be further improved.

5 In the present preferred embodiment, at least one part of the upper first housing portion 102a is made of an electrically conductive material. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and at least one part of the upper second housing portion 102b may be made of an electrically conductive material and the hinge portion 104 may be electrically connected with the upper second housing portion 102b. In
10 this case, the antenna element 120A is constituted by using the antenna element 504, the fitting intrusive circular cylindrical member 505, the hinge portion 104, and the conductor portion of the upper second housing portion 102b. It is thereby possible to set the distance between the antenna element 102A and the human head larger during a
15 telephone conversation, and to suppress the decrease of the antenna gain.

In the present preferred embodiment, the antenna element 504 may be constituted by using a feeding line such as a coaxial cable.

EIGHTH PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

20 Fig. 37A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in a closed state thereof according to an eighth preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 37B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 37A.

The portable radio communication apparatus according to the
25 eighth preferred embodiment is different from that according to the fifth preferred embodiment shown in Fig. 17A, in that an antenna element 811 is formed to extend toward the conductor portion of the upper first

housing portion 702a through the inside of the biaxial hinge portion 704, the inside of the upper second housing portion 702b, and the inside of the upper first housing portion 702a. Therefore, the connection point 801 of the radio communication circuit 110 is electrically connected with the upper first housing portion 702a at a connection point 812 through the antenna element 811. The portable radio communication apparatus according to the eighth preferred embodiment constituted as mentioned above has the same functions and advantageous effects as those of the portable radio communication apparatus according to the fifth preferred embodiment. By arranging the boom portion 910 of substantially laterally symmetric structure to be substantially laterally symmetric relative to the width direction or the horizontal direction of the portable radio communication apparatus, the design quality of the portable radio communication apparatus can be further improved. Even if the structure of the biaxial hinge portion 704 is larger, the design quality of the portable radio communication apparatus can be further improved.

The antenna element 811 can extend to be electrically insulated from the biaxial hinge portion 704, and the biaxial hinge portion 704 can operate as a parasitic element of the antenna element 102A or 901.

In the present preferred embodiment, the antenna element 811 is formed to extend into the upper first housing portion 702a and to be electrically connected with the conductor portion of the upper first housing portion 702a. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and the antenna element 811 may be connected with an electrical conductor portion of the biaxial hinge portion 704 connected with the conductor portion of the upper first housing portion 702a.

In the present preferred embodiment, the portable radio

communication apparatus includes the antenna element 811. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and the portable radio communication apparatus may include the feeding line such as the coaxial cable, instead of the antenna element 811.

5 Fig. 38A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in an open state thereof according to a modified preferred embodiment of the eighth preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 38B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 39A. The portable radio communication apparatus
10 according to the modified preferred embodiment of the eighth preferred embodiment is different from that according to the eighth preferred embodiment, in that at least one part of the upper second housing portion 102b is made of an electrically conductive material, and in that the antenna element 811 is electrically connected with the upper second
15 housing portion 102b. In this case, the antenna element 102A is constituted by using the antenna element 811 and the conductor portion of the upper second housing portion 702b. It is thereby possible to set the distance between the antenna element 102A and the human head larger during a telephone conversation, and to suppress the decrease of
20 the antenna gain.

NINTH PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Fig. 39A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in a closed state thereof according to a ninth preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 39B is a side view of the
25 portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 39A.

The portable radio communication apparatus according to the ninth preferred embodiment is different from the portable radio

communication apparatus according to the first preferred embodiment, in that an external antenna 951 such as a quarter-wave whip antenna is provided in the vicinity of the end portion of the upper second housing portion 102b on the opposite side of the hinge portion 104 in a portable radio communication apparatus 1001, instead of the first antenna element 102A that includes the antenna element 112 and the upper first housing portion 102a. According to the portable radio communication apparatus constituted as mentioned above, by combining the external antenna 951 that has conventionally function as a main antenna in both closed and open states thereof, with the antenna element 901 (not shown in Figs. 39A and 39B) provided in the boom portion 910, then a reception diversity processing can be executed which is improved as compared with the conventional portable radio communication apparatus. In addition, the degree of freedom for designing the same apparatus to satisfy required antenna characteristics can be further improved, the external antenna 951 smaller in size than that of the conventional portable radio communication apparatus can be employed, and the design quality can be further improved.

It is noted that the installment position of the external antenna element 951 described in the present preferred embodiment is just one example, and the installment position of the external antenna element 951 is not limited to this. For example, the external antenna 951 may be arranged in the lower housing 103. In this case, the boom portion 910 may be arranged in the upper housing 102.

In the above-mentioned embodiments described, the folding portable radio communication apparatus has been described. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and a straight portable radio

communication apparatus may be provided in which the external antenna 851 and the antenna element 901 of the boom portion 910 may be combined.

TENTH PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

5 Fig. 40A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in a closed state thereof according to a tenth preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 40B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 40A.

10 The portable radio communication apparatus according to the tenth preferred embodiment is different from the portable radio communication apparatus according to the ninth preferred embodiment, in that a built-in antenna element 952 such as a ceramic chip antenna or the like is provided on the inside of the upper second housing portion 102b in the vicinity of the end portion of the upper second housing
15 portion 102b on the opposite side of the hinge portion 104 of the portable radio communication apparatus, instead of the external antenna 951. In the present preferred embodiment, the built-in antenna element 952 and the antenna element 901 of the boom portion 910 (not shown in Figs. 40A and 40B) constitute the antenna apparatus.
20 By thus constituting the portable radio communication apparatus, it is possible to improve the design quality, and to improve the degree of freedom for designing the same apparatus.

 Fig. 41A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication apparatus in a closed state thereof according to a modified preferred
25 embodiment of the tenth preferred embodiment of the present invention.

 Fig. 41B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 41A.

The portable radio communication apparatus according to the modified preferred embodiment of the tenth preferred embodiment is different from the portable radio communication apparatus according to the tenth preferred embodiment, in that the built-in antenna element 5 952 is arranged on the inside of the lower housing 103 in the vicinity of the end portion of the lower housing 103 on the opposite side of the hinge portion 104. The portable radio communication apparatus according to the modified preferred embodiment of the tenth preferred embodiment has the same functions and advantageous effects as those 10 of the portable radio communication apparatus according to the tenth preferred embodiment. As the distance between the antenna element 901 of the boom portion 910 and the built-in antenna element 952 becomes smaller, the correlation coefficient between the antenna elements 901 and 952 becomes higher by coupling between the antenna 15 elements 901 and 952. As a result, the advantageous effects such as the diversity reception may possibly be lowered. Therefore, it is preferable that the antenna elements 901 and 952 are away from each other by at least a quarter of wavelength.

In the present preferred embodiment and the modified preferred 20 embodiment of the tenth preferred embodiment, an instance in which the portable radio communication apparatus includes one built-in antenna element 952 has been described. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and the portable radio communication apparatus may include a plurality of built-in antennas. In this case, it 25 is possible to cover a plurality of frequency bands.

ELEVENTH PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Fig. 42A is a plan view of a folding portable radio communication

apparatus according to an eleventh preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 42B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 42A.

5 The portable radio communication apparatus according to the eleventh preferred embodiment is different from that according to the first preferred embodiment in the following points.

(a) The lower housing 103 is constituted so that the lower first housing portion 103a located on the inside thereof and the lower second housing portion 103b located on the outside thereof are bonded together
10 while opposing to each other. At least one part of the lower second housing portion 103b is made of the same electrically conductive material as that of the upper first housing portion 102a of the first preferred embodiment (this portion made of an electrically conductive material will be referred to as a conductor portion hereinafter). The
15 portable radio communication apparatus includes a key pad 116 in the central portion of the inner side surface of the lower first housing portion 103a.

(b) The portable radio communication apparatus includes the radio communication circuit 110 of the upper second housing portion
20 102b.

(c) The portable radio communication apparatus includes an antenna element 962 extending from the upper second housing portion 102b toward the lower second housing portion 103b through the hinge portion 104.

25 Referring to Figs. 42A and 42B, the antenna element 962 is provided so as to extend from a connection point 961 (corresponding to the connection point 111 shown in Fig. 1A) that serves as a feeding point

of the radio communication circuit 110 into the lower first housing portion 103a through the inside of the hinge portion 104, and one end of the antenna element 962 located on the inside of the lower first housing portion 103a is connected with a screw 963.

5 The screw 963 penetrates the lower housing 103 from the outer side surface of the lower second housing portion 103b toward a screw reception portion 964 of the lower first housing portion 103b, and this leads to that the lower housing 103 is screwed with the screw 963 and the screw 963 is electrically connected with the conductor portion of the
10 lower second housing portion 103b. Accordingly, the connection point 961 of the radio communication circuit 110 is electrically connected with the conductor portion of the lower second housing portion 103b through the antenna element 962 and the screw 963. As a result, the antenna apparatus is constituted by using the antenna element 962 and the
15 conductor portion of the lower second housing portion 103b. The portable radio communication apparatus constituted as mentioned above has the same functions and advantageous effects as those of the portable radio communication apparatus according to the first preferred embodiment.

20 In the present preferred embodiment, the antenna element 962 is connected with the conductor portion of the lower second housing portion 103b. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and at least one part of the lower first housing portion 103a may be made of an electrically conductive material, and the antenna element 962 may be
25 connected with the conductor portion of the lower first housing portion 103a. Alternatively, the conductor portion may be formed on each of the lower first housing portion 103a and the lower second housing

portion 103b.

TWELFTH PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Fig. 44A is a plan view of a slide type portable radio communication apparatus according to a twelfth preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 44B is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 44A.

Referring to Figs. 44A and 44B, the portable radio communication apparatus according to the present preferred embodiment includes an upper housing 102c, a lower housing 103c, and a sliding mechanism. The sliding mechanism is constituted so that two sliding protrusions 182 formed on a rear surface of the upper housing 102c are fitted into slide grooves 181 formed on both side surfaces of the lower housing 130c in a longitudinal direction thereof, respectively, and so that the upper housing 102c is slidable along the longitudinal direction thereof in a direction indicated by an arrow 183. As shown in Fig. 44A and 44B, when the upper housing 102c is located on the upper side of the sliding mechanism, a keypad 116 of the lower housing 103c appears and is made operable by the user. On the other hand, when the upper housing 102c is located on the lower side of the sliding mechanism, the keypad 116 of the lower housing 103c is covered with the upper housing 102c and is made inoperable by the user. At that time, the upper housing 102c and the lower housing 103c are integrated with each other at a minimum occupied area, and the integrated housings become similar in a form to a straight type portable radio communication apparatus which will be described later. Further, a conductor layer 103cc made of an electrically conductive material is formed on a top portion of a rear surface of the lower housing 103c, and

used as an antenna element 103A. In addition, built-in antenna elements 191 and 192 each constructed by, for example, a chip antenna are included internally in left and right end portions of a lower portion of the lower housing 103c, respectively. Preferably, at least two of the
5 three antenna elements 103A, 191, and 192 are formed, and transmission diversity and reception diversity are performed using the at least two antenna elements.

Fig. 45A is a plan view of a slide type portable radio communication apparatus according to a modified preferred embodiment of the twelfth preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 45B
10 is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 45A.

Referring to Figs. 45A and 45B, the portable radio communication apparatus according to the present modified preferred
15 embodiment is characterized, as compared with that of the twelfth preferred embodiment, in that the boom portion 910 including therein the antenna element 901 connected with the connection point 902 is coupled with both edges of the upper end surface of the lower housing 103c.

20 The characteristic constitutions of the portable radio communication apparatuses according to the first to eleventh preferred embodiments and their modified preferred embodiments may be applied to the slide type portable radio communication apparatuses according to the twelfth preferred embodiment and the modified preferred
25 embodiment of the twelfth preferred embodiment.

THIRTEENTH PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Fig. 46A is a plan view of a straight type portable radio

communication apparatus according to the thirteenth preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 46B is a rear view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 46A. Fig. 46C is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 46A.

Referring to Figs. 46A, 46B, and 46C, the portable radio communication apparatus according to the present preferred embodiment is a straight type portable radio communication apparatus which includes an upper housing 102d and a lower housing 103d that are bonded to each other. For example, a conductor layer 103dc made of an electrically conductive material is formed on an upper portion of a rear surface of the lower housing 103d, and is used as the antenna element 103A. In addition, the built-in antenna elements 191 and 192 each constructed by, for example, a chip antenna are included in left and right end portions of a lower portion of the lower housing 103d, respectively. Preferably, at least two of the three antenna elements 103A, 191, and 192 are formed, and transmission diversity and reception diversity are performed using the at least two antenna elements.

Fig. 47A is a plan view of a straight type portable radio communication apparatus according to a modified preferred embodiment of the thirteenth preferred embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 47B is a rear view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 47A. Fig. 47C is a side view of the portable radio communication apparatus shown in Fig. 47A.

Referring to Figs. 47A, 47B and 47C, the portable radio communication apparatus according to the present modified preferred

embodiment is characterized, as compared with that of the thirteenth preferred embodiment, in that the boom portion 910 including therein the antenna element 901 connected with the connection point 902 is coupled with both edges of an upper end surface of the lower housing 103d.

The characteristic constitutions of the portable radio communication apparatuses according to the first to eleventh preferred embodiments and their modified preferred embodiments may be applied to the straight type portable radio communication apparatuses according to the thirteenth preferred embodiment and the modified preferred embodiment of the thirteenth preferred embodiment.

In the above-mentioned preferred embodiments, the antenna or antenna element is preferably an unbalanced type antenna or antenna element.

MODIFIED PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Fig. 43 is a longitudinal sectional view showing a detailed configuration of a boom portion 910 of a portable radio communication apparatus according to a further modified preferred embodiment of the preferred embodiments of the present invention.

Referring to Fig. 43, a first electrical conductor antenna element layer 911 is formed on an upper surface of the boom portion 901, and a second electrical conductor antenna element layer 912 is formed on the lower surface of the boom portion 901 to be away from the first electrical conductor antenna element layer 911. Then, the two conductor antenna element layers 911 and 912 are electrically connected with each other at a connection point 913 in the lower housing 103, and the two conductor antenna element layers 911 and 912 are also connected with

the connection point 902.

In the portable radio communication apparatus constituted as mentioned above, when the first conductor antenna element layer 911 is formed to have an electric length at which the layer 911 resonates in a lower frequency band such as 800 MHz band or the like. Further, the second conductor antenna element layer 912 is formed to have an electric length at which the layer 912 resonates in a higher frequency band such as 1.5 GHz band or the like. Then, the electric distance between the two layers 911 and 912 is smaller as the frequency becomes lower. Generally speaking, when the distance between a grounding conductor of the printed wiring board 106 in the lower housing 103, and the conductor antenna element 911 is equal to the distance between the grounding conductor thereof and the conductor antenna element 912, the antenna gain of the conductor antenna element layer in the lower frequency band is lowered. However, as shown in Fig. 43, by arranging the conductor antenna element in the lower frequency band on the outer side (upper side) away from the grounding conductor, it is possible to set the distance of the present conductor antenna element layer to the grounding conductor of the lower housing 103 larger. The capacitive coupling between the conductor antenna element layer 911 and the grounding conductor can be remarkably reduced. Therefore, the input impedance when the antenna apparatus is viewed from the feeding point can be further lowered. It is possible to easily attain impedance matching at a predetermined characteristic impedance such as 50 Ω or the like, and it is possible to realize high antenna gain characteristics in wide bands using the two conductor antenna element layers 911 and 912.

In the preferred embodiments mentioned above, the conductor portion that operates as the antenna element 102A is formed on one of the upper first housing portion 102a and the upper second housing portion 102b. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and the conductor portion that operates as the antenna element 102A may be formed on each of the upper first housing portion 102a and the upper second housing portion 102b.

In the preferred embodiments mentioned above, the conductor portion formed on one of the upper housing 102 and the lower housing 103. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and the conductor portion may be formed on each of the upper housing 102 and the lower housing 103.

In the preferred embodiments mentioned above, the whip antenna is employed as the external antenna. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and a fixed helical antenna may be employed. Further, an inverted-F antenna may be employed as the built-in antenna. Besides, a plurality of antenna apparatuses may be provided in the upper housing 102.

In the preferred embodiments mentioned above, the upper housing 102 is connected with the lower housing 103, for example, by the antenna element 112. However, the present invention is not limited to this, and the upper housing 102 may be connected with the lower housing 103 by an electrical conductor pattern on a flexible printed wiring board.

In the preferred embodiments mentioned above, the boom portion 910 is made of an electrically conductive material such as magnesium or zinc, and this leads to that the mechanical strength of the boom portion

910 can be increased. Accordingly, even if the portable radio communication apparatus falls down to the ground, it is possible to prevent the same apparatus from being damaged. In addition, since at least one part of the boom portion 910 is formed to be filled with a dielectric material such as a resin material, it is advantageously possible to lower the resonance frequency of the antenna element 901 of the boom portion 910, and the portable radio communication apparatus can be made smaller in size as compared with the same apparatus in which the boom portion 910 is not filled with the dielectric material. Further, by fixing the surroundings of the antenna element 901 by a dielectric material such as a resin material, it is possible to increase the mechanical strengths of the boom portion 910 and the antenna element 901, and to improve the mass-producibility of the same apparatus.

In the above-mentioned preferred embodiments, at least one part of the boom portion 910 may be made of an elastic or flexible resin material such as elastomer. In this case, when the portable radio communication apparatus is put on the ground and the user pressurizes the same apparatus from above such as inadvertently stamping down the same apparatus or inadvertently dropping the same apparatus from a holding state, the impact can be absorbed and the damage of the boom portion 910 can be prevented.

In the above-mentioned preferred embodiments, the shape of the boom portion 910 is not limited to that shown in the drawings. For example, the boom portion 910 may be formed to be trapezoidal or tapered. In addition, at least one part of the boom portion 910 may be made of a transparent or semitransparent resin material. In this case, the design quality can be further improved. Further, a light emission

diode that projects light during transmission of the radio wave may be arranged in the boom portion 910.

As mentioned above, according to the folding portable radio communication apparatus according to the preferred embodiments, at least one part of the upper housing or lower housing is constituted to serve as the antenna element. Therefore, it is advantageously possible to increase the strength of the same apparatus against the impact such as that upon the user's dropping the same apparatus. In addition, since it is unnecessary to secure the space occupied by the antenna element, the number of parts can be decreased, and the portable radio communication apparatus can be made thinner and lighter in weight as compared with the conventional portable radio communication apparatus. Further, by allowing the hinge portion made of the electrically conductive material to function as a part of the antenna apparatus, the antenna apparatus can be made larger in size, and the antenna gain thereof can be further improved. Additionally, by bonding the thin-film-shaped electrically insulating sheet 301 made of the dielectric material or the magnetic material onto the surface of the upper first housing portion 102a, the distance between the human body and the antenna apparatus can be set larger, and then, the decrease of the antenna gain caused by the electromagnetic influence of the human body can be suppressed during a telephone conversation.

According to the portable radio communication apparatus of the preferred embodiments mentioned above, a combination of (a) a first antenna and (b) a second antenna is provided in the vicinity of the hinge portion of the lower housing of the folding portable radio communication apparatus, where (a) the first antenna is the antenna element 901 of the

boom portion 910 connected at a position at which the antenna element 901 is substantially laterally symmetric relative to the width direction or the horizontal direction of the same apparatus, and (b) the second antenna includes, as the component, the upper housing or lower housing at least one part of which is made of the electrically conductive material. It is thereby possible to transmit and receive radio waves without using the conventional external antenna. Therefore, it is possible to solve such a conventional disadvantages that the external antenna is sometimes got stuck with his pocket when the portable radio communication apparatus is taken out from his pocket. In addition, since the penetrating hole 910h is formed in the space surrounded by the boom portion 910 and the lower housing 103, it is possible to suspend the portable radio communication apparatus from the neck of the user with the strap 910s attached to the boom portion 910. In this case, since it is unnecessary to use any conventional external antenna, the portable radio communication apparatus can be designed to be laterally symmetric, and the portable radio communication apparatus can be easily well balanced laterally or horizontally when the same apparatus is suspended from the neck of the user.

Although the present invention has been fully described in connection with the preferred embodiments thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be noted that various changes and modifications are apparent to those skilled in the art. Such changes and modifications are to be understood as included within the scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims unless they depart therefrom.